

LHS LIBRARY

Music

Vol. XXX, No. 4

Lexington High School, Lexington, Mass.

February 1997



Singing Valentine Quartet members Kate Gang, Melissa Gang, Caroline Kim, and Alissa Roeder serenade math teacher and "Love God" Saleh Rahman.

-photo by Tim Dunn

990 Hours Draft Proposal Ups Graduation Standards

by Eun Young Choi

If the scheduling committee's draft proposal is accepted by the Massachusetts State Board of Education, Lexington High School will consider adopting an innovative plan to meet the "990-hours of structured learning time" requirement for the 1997-1998 school year.

Among other changes, the plan would require seniors to take at least 28 credits of classes annually starting next September. The current requirement is 22 credits. A 28 credit schedule would be the equivalent of 875 hours of structured learning time in the class-

room over the current 180-day schedule.

Submitted this January, the draft proposal outlines ways in which each student can meet the time requirement through a combination of regularly scheduled classroom instruction and outside activities.

If the proposal is accepted, students in each grade will be required to participate in several categories of "structured learning

activities" which include music performances, foreign language exchanges, summer academic camps, community service, "wellness activities," drama, computer-assisted instruction, scientific research, college course work, math or science team, Model UN, and debate.

Students who are involved in activities which are part of a class, such as band or debate, would receive hours only for work done outside of the class; concerts and debate tournaments would merit hours whereas the classes themselves would be part of the 875 hours.

"Learning doesn't occur only during these 180 days," said Principal Philip Lanoue. "It happens all the time, and I think that the school should be able to acknowledge that."

If the proposal is passed, students in grades 10 through 12 will develop a personal annual learning plan at the start of the school year. This plan will include activities which students pick and those which are required. These plans will be reviewed periodically.

Lanoue commented, "Students must understand that this is a proposal, and that there are details not yet worked out." For example,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Committee Examines Open Campus Policy

by Carolyn Shank

A committee of three students, three teachers, and one community member will re-examine the purpose and guidelines of the open campus policy. This committee will be moderated by English teacher George Mechem, who has taken over Assistant Principal Paul Brown's administrative position for the remainder of the year.

The open campus issue falls under "School Attendance and Security Issues," part of Principal Philip Lanoue's School Improvement Plan. Goal III of the plan aims "[t]o improve security by defining expectations and clarifying and communicating existing rules and regulations." One of the strategies falling under Goal III is to "re-examine open campus policies in light of educational liability and community concerns." Currently, ninth and tenth grade students are not allowed to leave campus during the school day, including lunch time.

What exactly does this "re-examining" entail? According to Lanoue, it is not an issue of "whether to have [open campus] or not." The committee will concentrate on the purpose and guidelines of the current policy.

Lanoue commented that he would like to "be clear...about the guidelines [of the policy]" concerning who is eligible for open campus, stressing that it is a "privilege, not a right." He continued, "We shouldn't penalize those who make good decisions, but I'd like to see the guidelines focusing more on qualifications such as GPA and behavior." As an exam-

ple, Lanoue stated that "open campus should not be an option" for a student who consistently cuts class.

When asked about the committee's role, Mechem replied, "When we look at the school as a whole, we look at unexcused absences that we are trying to eliminate, and drugs and alcohol on campus. ...[W]ill some modification of open campus mean better attendance and fewer problems with

"When we look at the school as a whole, we look at unexcused absences... [W]ill some modification of open campus mean better attendance and fewer problems with drugs, alcohol, and vandalism?"

-George Mechem

drugs, alcohol, and vandalism?"

Mechem said that the committee will assess these problems and "hope[fully] come up with ways to improve life at LHS." The committee's role is to make suggestions, not set policy, said Mechem. The School Council will address this issue in the spring.

The open campus committee's findings are due to the School Council on April 17th, and the Council will vote following the presentation of the findings. The outcome of the vote will appear in next year's Student Handbook and will be applied in the fall.

Lanoue added that the re-examination is not related to the mandate for 990 hours of instruction.



Principal Philip D. Lanoue takes a break from his busy daily schedule.

-photo by Mike Chen

Inside

DECREASING NUMBER OF LOCKER ROOM THEFTS
Senate Locker Room Bill achieves its purpose. *Page 2.*

WINTER BAND CONCERT
Bands from all LHS schools perform. *Page 3.*

A LACK OF COURTESY?
Is courtesy really a lost art? Editorial. *Page 5.*

END OF DEBATE SEASON
Even though it's only February, the season is almost over for debaters. *Page 6.*

HOCKEY FALLS SHORT
Hockey team one point short of state tournament. *Page 7.*

BOYS' SWIM COMES IN 3RD
Not champs, but very close. *Page 8.*

School Committee Discusses Appropriateness of User Fee

by Evan Harris

At a recent meeting, School Committee members discussed the purpose and appropriateness of athletic user fees. The Massachusetts Executive Office of Education reported that athletic fees in other Massachusetts communities averaged \$36 per student last year.

Lexington High School students who participate in the sports program pay a \$200 per year fee. Middle school students pay \$170 a year for varsity sports, \$102 for junior varsity. Participants in the elementary school athletic program pay \$30 per year. The maximum athletic user fee per family is \$400.

So far this year, the Lexington Public School system has raised over \$130,000 in athletic user fees. There are no user fees for any other extracurricular activity.

Lexington School Committee members expressed varying views on the issue of user fees. School Committee member Joseph Dini suggests that "the enormous increase in the population of Lexington's schools and our rising

school costs" necessitate the athletic fees. He explains, "We would like to be able to provide all after school activities free of charge to anyone who wants to participate. But with increasing enrollment and a relatively flat school budget, we have had to choose between cutting activities or charging some sort of user fee to fund them."

Dini points out that although

"The bottom line is that we need to get some equity with the user fees."

-School Committee member Joseph Dini

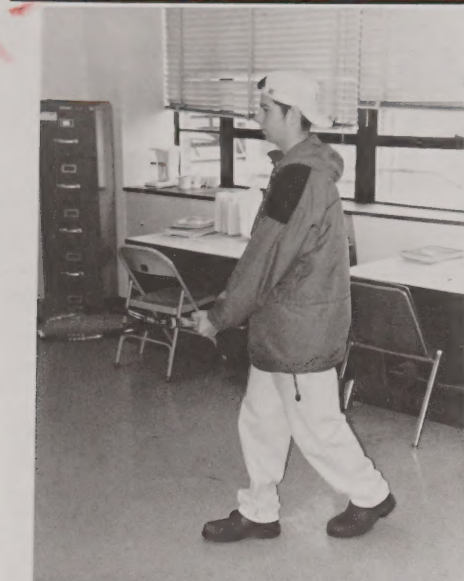
some activities raise a great deal of money through student and parent fundraising, these funds do not cover the costs of Lexington's programs. He adds, "The bottom line is that we need to get some equity with the user fees."

School Committee member Susan Elberger agrees with Dini that the athletic user fee is appropriate, but does not believe that all

students should have to pay the same amount to participate in very different activities. Elberger is "concerned about issues of equity and would like to take a look and see how different activities get supported by funds that are not allocated by the School Department." She contends that "the simplistic statement that says every activity should have to pay the same fee as every other activity" is inappropriate.

Brian McNally, Lexington's Athletic Director, agrees that user fees should be considered for non-athletic events in order to create a more equitable distribution of costs. He considers the user fees a "pretty high burden for athletes to pay," and considers it "fair for participants in other co-curricular activities to also pay fees." McNally suggests "look[ing] at how all co-curricular activities are run," and contends that the "deficit in the school budget for these activities ought to be shared among the different groups, not just athletics."

Other areas open for consideration are the appropriateness of bus and transcript fees and the overall funds they generate.



Junior Mike Sciarretta doesn't realize that his tennis ball has bounced out of sight.

-photo by Dan Myung

Proposal Outlines Ways to Reach 990

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
participation in sports does not count towards the 990 hours. Lanoue believes that sports should fall under "wellness activities" and should be counted.

"Many people are under the impression that the long blocks were a way to increase the number of minutes...That was not the case."

-Principal Philip Lanoue

Another unresolved issue is the "mechanism of implementation." It is still undecided as to how the school will determine whether or not a student has met his or her expected 990 hours of learning.

Although the latest proposal is still under review, the first step towards the 990 hour goal for each

student was approved by the School Committee last March.

Beginning with the Class of 2000, students will be required to take four years each of social studies, science, mathematics, and language arts; two years of a world language; two years of the arts; and two and a half cumulative years of health/physical education. In addition, the credit requirement for graduation has increased from 88 credits to 104 credits.

Lanoue notes that the changes in the school schedule were not a step towards reaching the 990 hour goal. According to Lanoue, "Many people are under the impression that the long blocks were a way to increase the number of minutes students were in class. That was not the case. Although long blocks did decrease minutes spent between classes during passing time, those minutes were simply added to lunch."

Bill Decreases Frequency of Theft in Locker Room

by Ami Karkar

The Locker Room Bill passed by the Senate on October 25, 1996, has dramatically decreased the number of thefts in the locker rooms. The bill limits the time students are allowed to be in the locker rooms during physical education class, athletic practices and competition, second lunch, passing times, and before and after school.

Before the bill was passed, there were roughly five thefts a day. This number does not include the many unreported thefts that occurred. The physical education staff reports that since the bill has been in effect, there have been no reported thefts. Word of mouth among the students and warnings by the physical education teachers have encouraged students to

adhere to the bill's guidelines, decreasing the number of thefts.

Physical Education teacher Laura Lasa said, "I only filled out three forms for people who were

"I only filled out three forms for people who were in the locker room at inappropriate times since the bill was in effect and that's the worst of it."

-Physical Education Teacher Laura Lasa

in the locker room at inappropriate times since the bill was in effect and that's the worst of it."

There was a two-week transition period for students to become aware of the bill's existence after

its passage. Initially, many students were angry because they could not use their gym lockers in place of inconveniently located school lockers. However, since then, many have concurred with Lasa's realization that "...the issues of safety and convenience cannot both be attained." Junior Kate Waller remarked that "safety was worth not being able to use the lockers during class time."

Those in the locker rooms at inappropriate times receive written and verbal for the first offense, two detentions for the second, a one day suspension for the third, and a suspension of at least two days for subsequent offenses. A student caught going through someone else's bag or locker or a student with stolen property will be disciplined according to the LHS Student/Faculty Handbook.

News Briefs

BOSTON GLOBE NAMES BERGIN COACH OF THE YEAR

The *Boston Globe* named varsity volleyball coach and physical education teacher Jane Bergin Division 1 All-Scholastic Coach of the Year. Bergin and the LHS volleyball team ended the season undefeated (18-0), and reached the semi-finals of the Division 1 state tournament.

PHILLIPS RESIGNS AS SENATE ASSISTANT MODERATOR

Debate teacher Les Phillips announced his resignation from Senate as Assistant Moderator. Phillips explained that he could no longer be a part of Senate this year because of the recent change

back to a five-day schedule. X-block will now always be on Fridays, and Phillips would miss numerous sessions due to debate trips. Chemistry teacher Jerusha Vogel has been appointed the new Assistant Moderator.

SCIENCE BOWL TEAMS WIN FIRST, SECOND PLACE

Lexington teams captured first and second places at the Northern New England Science Bowl on March 8. Peter Litwack, Dan Shiau, Tim Dunn, Mandar Muzumdar, and Andy Bair won second place in the jeopardy-style competition. Ram Gowda, Yuen-Jong Liu, Jeremy Silber, Rafael Bras, and Saro Getzoyan won

first, advancing them to the National Science Bowl to be held in May in Washington, D.C.

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to Presidential Scholars Candidates Carey Schwaber and Christine Chiou. Candidacy was determined on the basis of performance on ACT or SAT scores. From a pool of 2,600 candidates, a panel of educators will select 500 semifinalists in late March. Chosen for academic achievement, leadership, and community involvement, 51 Presidential Scholars will go to Washington, D.C., to participate in National Recognition Week.



Blake Harrison lounges outside the Band Room.

-photo by Brent Murakami



Percussionist Tim Dunn gets some pre-concert advice from Joe DeMatteo before his solo.
-photo by Dan Myung

LHS Students Tutor in Math Mentor Program

by Tad Antognini

Every Wednesday, for the past few months, a handful of Lexington High School students have paid a visit to place they never would have dreamt of returning to: elementary school. Not to worry—these students are returning not to review their multiplication tables. Instead, they are teaching them. Spurred by the incentive of community service credit and the rewarding experience of working with young children, LHS students from all grades signed up as members of the math mentor program at Bowman Elementary School.

In response to requests by other parents, Cheri Testa, a parent at the Bowman

Elementary school, began a program in which older students could tutor elementary school children who were having difficulty in mathematics. Since November, 18 "mentors" from the high school, each paired with a "mentee" from kindergarten through the fifth grade, have met at Bowman to help improve their mentees' math skills. The program meets weekly for an hour and is expected to run until May, giving LHS students and their mentees plenty of time for the mentors to identify and try to solve the problems the children are having in math. In addition, both students have time to get acquainted with each other.

Common "mentor" techniques include workbooks and exercise cards. Mathematical games, often modeled after popular children's games, are a favorite of both the mentors and the mentees.

As part of the program, each high school student keeps a journal. In it, they describe the math problems they worked on with their mentees, as well as the child's troubles and improvements. These journals are then given to the parents so that they can keep track of their children's progress.

Many students report an improvement in their math skills. For instance, one child said he fully mastered his multiplication tables, an area he had been having difficulty with a few weeks earlier, with the help of his high school mentor.

According to Testa, the program has helped these children a great deal primarily because "they look up to older students," and "they admire teenagers as 'role models' who have overcome many of the same difficulties in math that they are facing." Testa also mentioned that many of the parents involved in the program had noticed a significant improvement in their children's math skills.

The program seems to be equally rewarding for the mentors. Many students initially signed up to accumulate some hours towards the 40 hour graduation requirement. However, many now say that they appreciate the experience of helping younger children improve their math skills as much as they do the community service hours.

Students Perform in Harmony at Annual LHS Winter Band Concert

by Dan Shiau

With the melodious sounds of the LHS Saxophone Quartet filling the lobby, combined with the buzz and hum of excited parents, the annual Winter Band Festival kicked off on January 29th in the newly dedicated Donald J. Gillespie Auditorium. Boasting a capacity crowd and even larger performing groups than last year's throngs of musicians, the Winter Band Festival promised to be a night to remember.

The evening began with Band Director Jeffrey Leonard conducting the LHS Wind Ensemble as they played "Amaparito Roca," an upbeat Spanish march written by Jamie Texidor. Next came Percy Aldridge Grainger's "Colonial Song," followed by the first movement of Paul Creston's "Concertino for Marimba and Band." The "Concertino" featured solo percussionist Timothy Dunn, who wowed the large crowd with his fast and dramatic marimba playing.

After the most advanced group had finished, the beginners took the stage. Under the conduction of Mr. Daniel Riley, the fifth grade students played a medley of classics ranging from "Jingle Bells" to Beethoven's

"Ode to Joy." The All-Elementary Band was next, conducted by the infamous David Samour. The Elementary Band ran through another medley of favorites, including "London Bridge" and "Yankee Doodle." Both groups were so large that all the musicians had to play standing, due to lack of space on the stage.

"You can definitely see the improvement between elementary and high school."

-Junior Sarah Park

With the arrival of the Middle School bands came more talented musicians playing more difficult music. The combined Clarke and Diamond Bands and the slightly more advanced Clarke and Diamond Wind Ensemble played crowd pleasing tunes, such as the theme from "Star Wars" and "Shaker Variants." Once again, the stage was overflowing with musicians, as some of

the performers had to stand behind rows of curtains while playing.

The evening ended with a performance from the LHS Band. Although all of the band members managed to find chairs to sit in, space was very limited. While the band members bumped elbows and instruments, they managed to play three pieces, including "Apollo," by John Pennington. This non-traditional work simulated sounds and images that one would experience on a visit to the moon. One part of the piece even called for an anvil solo. The night ended with a bang, not a whimper, as the band played "Estampie" by Vaclav Nelhybel, featuring an antiphonal brass choir.

Most audience members would probably report that they left the Winter Band Festival concert with a feeling of inspiration. These feelings were partially due to the wonderful musical selection, but after listening to the progression from the eager beginners to the most eloquent of groups, one was simply overwhelmed with a sense of hope for the future of music in Lexington. "You can definitely see the improvement between elementary to high school," said junior Sarah Park.

Drama Social Issues Class Combines Comedy, Drama

by Jennifer Poage

On January 17th, the Drama of Social Issues class gave their second performance of the year. This time, the event focused on the topic of sexuality. Teachers of classes held during G and H blocks were invited to bring their classes to the presentation.

"The [Drama of Social Issues] program is particularly effective because the performers use both comedy and drama to bring up problems in our society."

-Senior Cristina Chapman

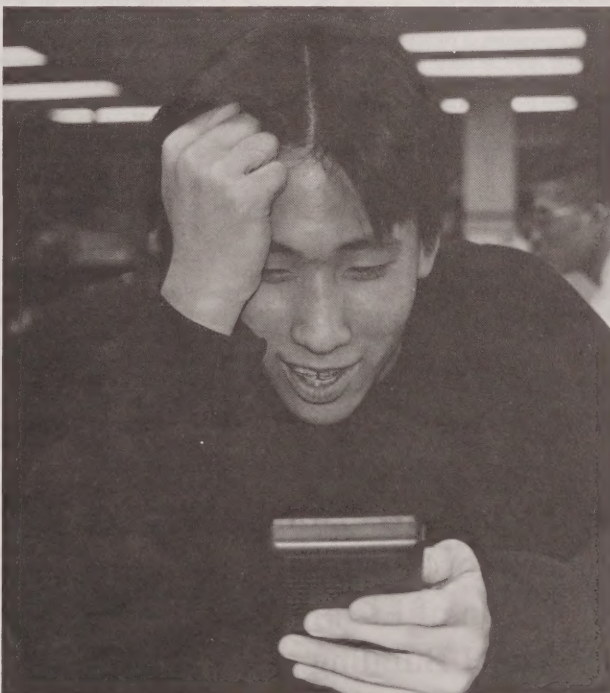
The class worked to portray "sexuality" as a term far beyond "sex." They defined it as a wide array of issues relevant to our everyday lives. These issues included sexual orientation, pregnancy, sexuality portrayed through the media, abstinence, and censorship. Some of the less obvious issues were parent/child communication, sexual manipulation, and gender roles and stereotypes.

When asked about the importance of the Drama Social Issues productions, senior Cristina Chapman answered, "The program is particularly effective because the performers use both comedy and drama to bring up problems in our society." She added, "The students develop characters and scenes not only to bring up questions and conflicts, but to bring us a step closer to finding resolutions."

After viewing the show, some audience members commented that they enjoyed the show because they were able to relate to some of the characters and issues that were portrayed. Others merely enjoyed the comic scenes. "Even though they covered some serious topics, I laughed anyway," commented senior Jessica Carlisle. "Me too," said junior Sarah Park.

Many people are unaware of the painstaking process taken to prepare for the show. After brainstorming ideas on the chosen topic, the class breaks down into small groups. Each group then creates a separate skit to be performed in the show. The skits combine an introspective look at important social issues with a lively and entertaining presentation.

The next performance will be held on Friday, March 21.



Junior Herbert Chen's math skills are so good that he only uses his TI-85 to play Tetris.

-photo by Dan Myung

Service Credit for Peer Editors

For five years, Writing Workshop editors have voluntarily sacrificed their free blocks to serve the school community. The organization facilitates exactly the sort of activity that should be awarded community service credit. Writing Workshop is not, however, an "approved community service organization."

Writing Workshop is a peer-editing organization dedicated to meeting the short and long-term editing needs of the student population. Candidates for Writing Workshop undergo a rigorous selection process. In August, successful candidates for editorship are put through the equivalent of "writing boot camp." During this "Basic Training" period, Writing Workshop president David Kong and English teachers Anne Sanderson and Ingrid Weisel train the students in the fine art of editing.

During the school year, editors spend at least two hours a week in the Writing Workshop room, a small room in the back of the science building library. There, editors help students with everything from term papers and thesis development to science project proposals or short stories.

Few organizations come closer to true community service than Writing Workshop does. These editors should be granted community service credit for the time they spend staffing the workshop.

Community service is the basis of Writing Workshop. One does not become an editor without intending to eventually get around to edit. Students become involved in Writing Workshop to serve the community. Service is just as integral to Writing Workshop as it is to the Lexington Food Pantry, a popular and "approved" place to earn community service hours.

The Lexington High School Student/Faculty Senate Social Action Committee, which approves and disapproves of activities in order to maintain the integrity of the community service experience, justly holds that students cannot receive credit for any work for which they receive monetary compensation or curriculum credit for graduation. Additionally, the committee has determined that no student can receive community service credit for work done for relatives.

Certainly, Writing Workshop editors receive no monetary compensation or curriculum credit. Although editors may seem to comprise "one big happy family," (excuse the cliché) they are not related. Writing Workshop therefore violates none of the Social Action Committee's above-listed standards. There exists no valid justification for denying Writing Workshop a Senate Social Action Committee seal of approval.

Few organizations or activities allow students to come closer to true community service than Writing Workshop does. There is no personal gain for these editors, who donate their time and talent to help others with their writing. They should be granted community service credit for the time they willingly spend staffing the workshop.

-Carey Schwaber

Sign-up for AP exams will begin March 3 and end March 12. Bring a check for \$74 payable to "Town of Lexington" to H Building.

If you have any questions, see Mr. Webb.



Public Displays of Affection: Not a Part of Learning Process

Eventually, most teenagers develop relationships, often with classmates. As a result, they exhibit affections for each other and engage in displays such as hugging, kissing, and holding hands. These actions are certainly permissible outside of school, but many teenagers continue such behavior in school, where it hinders their academic growth and development. School is a place for learning important skills, not affection; these displays affect the performance of uninvolved persons. Showing these affections during the school day wastes time and attention.

First, school is an institution where people learn important skills and information through activities and lessons; affection is not in the curriculum. The ultimate goal of school is to leave graduates with the information and skills necessary for the rest of their lives. While affections teach teenagers how to develop good relationships with friends, it is not and will never be part of the learning process. In fact, affectionate actions detract from the learning experience that students can gain through their studies.

While affections teach teenagers how to develop good relationships with friends, it is not and will never be part of the learning process.

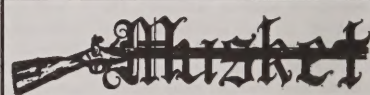
Second, when two people openly meet in an over-friendly manner, their behavior may influence others around them. Especially in school, a learning institution, their actions are noticed. Friends of either one of the two frequently begin to feel left out and ignored. The former ropes of strong friendship will slowly weaken, fiber by fiber, until the friends feel that they are not appreciated. By the time the two lovebirds dissolve their affair, they will find themselves stranded and uncomfortably alone, with few friends to whom to reach out. Such an example is surely enough to show the psychological aftermath of student affections.

Third, when people hold hands, hug, kiss, and express their over-friendly emotions, they waste a lot of time and attention. Instead of daydreaming about dates, a teenager could pay more attention to his or her classes. Going through each class in a daze can be likened to attempting to win a battle with half an army. Wasting the effort makes learning each subject harder, for one is less likely to remember all the material taught in class. Since school is a place for learning, a student should focus all his or her attention on gaining valuable knowledge

instead of wasting thought on matters irrelevant to school.

While the development of interpersonal skills is important, public displays of affection in school are distracting as well as inappropriate. These activities should remain outside of school, concordant with their private nature.

-Yuen-Jong Liu



Editor-in-Chief.....	Christine Chiu
News Editors.....	Sarah Park
	Owen Patrick
	Amie Shei
Editorials Editors.....	Anagha Nadkarni
	Andrew Rabkin
	Carey Schwaber
Features Editors.....	Rochelle Mackey
	Julie Marcal
Sports Editors.....	Daniel Ly
	Alex Sherman
Layout/Art Editors.....	Jesse Herman
	David Kong
Copy Editor.....	Eun-Young Choi
Photography Editors.....	Michael Chen
	Dan Myung
	Jay Premack
Business Manager.....	Julie Radz
	* * *
Faculty Advisor.....	Sam Kafirissen
Printer.....	Belmont Printing Company
	* * *
Reporters.....	Aaron Adler, Tad Antognini, Qin Chao,
	Ram Gowda, Evan Harris, Steve Hart, Ami Karkar,
	Yuen-Jong Liu, Jennifer Poage, Leela Ramnath, Carolyn
	Shank, Dan Shiao, Becky Ticosky, Ken Weinstein
Photographers.....	Mike Chen, Tim Dunn, David Liu,
	Brent Murakami, Dan Myung, Carl Tortola
Cartoonists.....	Dave Kong

Copyright © 1994 Lexington High School Musket. All rights reserved.

The opinions expressed on these editorial pages are the views of either the Musket editorial board or of individual staff members. They are not necessarily a reflection of school policy, nor are they intended to mirror the ideas of every student. Therefore, Musket realizes its responsibility to print other opinions. Mail short, tasteful letters to the editor to: MUSKET, 251 Waltham St., Lexington, MA 02173. The Musket can also be reached by e-mail at musket@lexington.ma.us. Only signed letters will ordinarily be printed. Musket reserves the right to edit for length and clarity.

Pranks Expose Disrespect and Thoughtless Students

Now that the year is almost half over, members of various classes are attempting to relieve tension with "a little fun." Recently, the front wall of the main building was unpleasantly defaced with what appeared to be a message of encouragement to the Lexington High School swim team. Unfortunately, this has not been the only instance of tomfoolery. Last year, students painted a rooster and planted him in the middle of the main hallway. Another prank included painting handicapped

Participating in pranks will not earn us any respect. The pranks may have been executed by a few individuals, but they reflect on the student body as a whole.

symbols in parking spaces so that they would resemble handicapped spots. It goes without saying that such activities on the part of students are irresponsible, uncalled for, and wrong. For many reasons, the high school community should refrain from participating in such sport.

First, repairing damage to the school is expensive. It makes no sense for us to go about randomly destroying things when money is tight. The entire high school community shares a right to be able to work in and enjoy a pleasant environment. We should not have to sacrifice this right in order to appease the listlessness of a few kids with nothing to do.

Second, there are many alternate ways for students to demonstrate school pride. Poster, rallies, and morning announcements abound at LHS; they are perfectly good mediums for school spirit. As seemingly mature adoles-

cents, we should not have to stoop to the level of vandalism.

Third, pranks disrupt the school environment. The rooster high jinx is an excellent example. Not only was the prank cruel, it also caused an inordinate amount of traffic and noise in the hallways. The school population is large enough as it is. There is no need to exacerbate our space problems by causing disruption.

Finally, many of the recent pranks show a lack of maturity and sense of moral responsibility within the school community. Strewing garbage and toilet paper around the school may be amusing for students, but who cleans up the mess? Only the school custodians are around when it comes time to gather up the remains of a prank. High school students should be able to understand that it is irresponsible and selfish to give other people more work to do at the cost of their own pleasure. Moreover, the nature of the pranks have become downright mean. It may amuse a few teenagers to watch the discomfort of an animal, but is also evident that painting and jabbing at a rooster is cruelty. The handicapped parking space prank demonstrates an insensitivity to the issue of disabilities. We've come a long way with these issues. Why ruin so much progress with selfish thoughtlessness?

As adolescents, we come under constant fire from adults, both teachers and parents, for our lack of responsibility. The only way to prove them wrong is to demonstrate that responsibility. Participating in pranks will not earn us any respect. The pranks may have been executed by a few individuals, but they reflect on the student body as a whole. Next time, stop to think about what the consequences of a possible prank may be. Your actions may be detrimental not only to yourself, but also to your peers.

-Anagha Nadkarni

Common Courtesy Lost Art In High School Community

In the last issue of the *Musket*, Ms. Schwaber called attention to the tact — or lack thereof — that characterizes many students' admission into college. The lack of courtesy during the college admissions process is not unexpected, though: one only has to spend a short while at LHS to realize that courtesy is often a lost art among LHS students.

From the beginning of the school day until the end, it is easy to observe acts of discourtesy. As each morning the Pledge of Allegiance is recited, students are chatting, or making mad last-minute attempts to finish their homework, or throwing paper airplanes across the room. While there may be only a few students who wish to make the Pledge, and while you may despise the Pledge to the very core of your being, that is not an excuse to

hates you.

Even the smartest of LHS students still seem to have trouble with the concept of "door." No matter how much empty space there is in the hallways of LHS, there are always a few students who still feel compelled to stop and have conversations right in a doorway, much to the chagrin of the other few hundred students who have to pass through that door. The student body also has a bizarre affliction which prevents it from opening both halves of a set of double doors; how many times have you been stuck in a doorway as several dozen students try to cram through one small opening? Most LHS students still treat doorways as an individual gauntlet; rare is the time when one LHS student holds a door open for another, or for a staff member. The most common maneuver is the "push," where the door is shoved as a student walks through, to hopefully keep it open for the next. Even this, though, is rare at times. However, the design of the school prevents courtesy: in a five-minute passing time, where everyone is rushed, students do not feel that they have the time to make the effort to be polite.

For students with a bookish bent, the Library Media Center is a pleasant place to go. Many students, though, treat the LMC like nothing more than a glorified cafeteria. As some students try to work, others exchange gossip and tell raucous jokes. The librarians themselves are hardly paragons of polite behavior: immediately after telling a group of students to be quiet, they call across the room to each other, asking where they are going to lunch or which teacher is due in next block. This behavior hardly sets a good example.

Despite what some seem to believe, saying "please" or "thank you" will not kill you. Both students and faculty at Lexington High School could stand to be more courteous to one another. After all, nobody is overjoyed to spend ten months, September through June, cooped up with these people, so we may as well make it as pleasant as possible.

-by Andrew Rabkin

Dave and Dave

Dave and Dave's "Handy Little Guide to Attracting Members of the Opposite Sex," or, "How to Draw Attention to Yourself with Just a Little Tasteful Nudity"

Lesson One: Scouting the Territory

First ask yourself, "Are there members of the opposite sex in my immediate vicinity?" OK, on to Lesson Two.

Lesson Two: How to Choose the One Who Is Right For You.

(The following conversations are based on the real-life investigative reporting of Dave and Dave.)

Prospect #1 was a bubbly individual who really got our coffee percolating, if you know what I mean.

Dave: (warm, candid smile) Hi, I'm Dave.

Prospect #1: Grunt, grunt, snort, snort, booper, booper!

At this point, Dave and Dave feel obliged to mention that prospect number one was actually a small dog we stopped to pet on the way down the street and probably not a good prospect for love, but Dave and Dave, in the great tradition of investigative reporting will go to any length to take up space on the newspaper page.

Prospect #2 was a knockout 39-45-15 (which, through an amazing coincidence, happens to be *Musket* editor Christine Chiou's locker combination, even though she hasn't used her locker in three years).

Dave: Hi, I'm Dave.

Prospect #2: Hi.

Dave: Yeah, I'm a representative of the *Musket* trying to put together a guide on how to attract members of the opposite sex.

Prospect #2: Oh...

(Insert awkward silence here.)

Dave: Well, my work here is done. Off to fight suburban crime in a tight spandex jumpsuit, my rippling abdominal muscles glinting in the moonlight...See, the thing is, if you are getting bad vibes, you want to get out of the situation as quickly as possible, even if it means posing as a super hero. This conversation was a definite improvement over the first one, but it still lacks that subtle, elusive spark of romance. As we feel it may have had some outcome on the course of the conversation, scientific integrity compels us to note that, during this conversation, Dave was wearing nothing but a strategically placed "I'd Rather Be Bow Hunting" bumper sticker. And a fruit hat (don't ask).

With Prospect #3, our slick veneer of coolness instantly melted away, like an amorous goose in the inviting aress of a jet engine.

Dave: (wobbling mess of pathetic insecurity) Hi?

Prospect #3: (saturating the area with automatic weapon fire) Eat lead, scumball!

So...our final attempt once again ended somewhat less than satisfactorily. Apparently, love and investigative reporting just don't mix.

But remember, folks, if you and your loved one decide to go all the way, to do the nasty, to crowd surf one-on-one, to do the horizontal mambo, to pan for gold in the Yukon, to play leapfrog with a unicorn, to send Lassie down the well to rescue Timmy, please protect yourself. Wear a seat belt.

-Dave and Dave

Is essay writing a pain in the neck?
Share your joy.
Come to the
Writing Workshop.

The Writing Workshop is located behind the photocopier in the student library.

disrupt those who do want to Pledge. Teachers also often unconsciously discourage the Pledge, taking the time during the Pledge and morning announcements to talk with students, begin the day's lesson, or grab a cup of coffee. Would it kill anyone to spend a few moments in silent respect during the Pledge? Does anyone even remember its purpose? The administration seems to give half-hearted lip-service to the Pledge and announcements as well: there are still rooms which have no loudspeaker or flag in them.

English teacher Mr. Brown often bemoans another type of discourtesy: students who ignore their teachers. Mr. Brown is fond of telling of the two students who would arrive first in his classroom every day, talking happily to each other, never bothering to even acknowledge Mr. Brown's presence. A simple "hello" goes a long way, even if you hate the teacher or the teacher

Community Service Club Helps LHS Help Others

by Ken Weinstein

The Community Service Club has been reincarnated after its short hibernation. Led by stalwart saviors Julie Marcal and Becca Mayer, the once-lagging organization has again begun to thrive. From leaf-raking to AIDS prevention, this group has volunteered its services to the needy. In many cases, those students involved are donating their time for the benefit of others, having already fulfilled the dreaded hours of mandatory community service.

After last year's leaders graduated, the club appeared to be dead. Forgotten by the wayside, it was only saved by the influx of

"When you say community service, many people assume that the projects chore-like activities, but the people who do [our] activities actually end up having a lot of fun."

-Junior Julie Marcal

Marcal, however, does have some concerns. She wants to ensure that the club will live on when the current group of juniors graduates. "Anyone can join," she invites. "There's no limit to how many people can be involved—we'd love to have some underclassmen." Unlike the National Honor Society, this service organization is open to anyone, with no GPA restrictions or requirements for previous community service. Best of all, the club emphasizes activities which are both rewarding and enjoyable. Says Marcal, "When you say community service, many people assume that the projects involve chore-like activities, but the people who do [our] activities actually end up having a lot of fun. Many of our members come back. That's when I know that our club is successful."



Community Service Club co-presidents Julie Marcal and Becca Mayer enjoy a rare day of good weather.

-photo by Carl Tortola

Lexington Debaters Finish 1997 Season With Surprising Success

by Ram Gowda

Lexington debaters are finishing the season with a bang, one perhaps not as resounding as last year, but definitely one that augers well for next year's juniors and seniors, not to mention the new crop of sophomores.

The prestigious Emory University Tournament started off February, with seniors Geddes Golay and David Enrich and senior Andy Diamond and junior Kurt Kastorf both reaching the double-octafinal elimination rounds, out of a very competitive field of some of the best debaters in the nation.

The first week of February, a few novice debaters were invited into varsity debate at the Bergenfield High School Tournament in New Jersey, a traditional preparation for the Harvard Tournament, where all novices are entered into a wholly varsity division. But these considerations were sidelined in the wake of an astounding winning streak by sophomores Ben Adams and Allen Riddell, who remained undefeated until the final round. Participants who were left stomped on by the unstoppable duo remain recovering from shock. In addition, sophomore Heidi Manschreck took home a speaker award.

At the concurrently held Bergenfield MHL, Lexington novices Brennan Igoe and Amal Dorai placed fourth, while Livia Istrate and Orly Menzin took fifth, out of teams from all over the Northeast.

During February vacation, the Lexington debate team arrived in full force for the Harvard Tournament, an enormous competition that occupies all five floors of the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. After eight rounds of grueling debating, Diamond and Kastorf avenged their previous loss with a surprising victory in octafinals over Atchison and Malone, seeded second out of a field of 200 teams. In the final round, Mike "Boner" Bonura and Owen Gribbin from the Newburgh Free Academy, New York, faced Goldberg and Hussein in an extremely messy final round. After 90 minutes of agonizing deliberation, seven judges reached a 4-3 decision to award the championship to Bonura and Gribbin.

Except for the Massachusetts State Tournament, where Lexington is expected

to handily retain its 17-year grip on the state trophy, all eyes are focused on the annual Tournament of Champions, where the top teams in the nation will compete for the national title. Golay and Enrich, Diamond and Kastorf, and junior Eun Young Choi and senior Anagha Nadkarni will be heading there this May.

With only TOC remaining, the team's next task is the dreaded March varsity "cut," when coach Les Phillips will decide which novices will fill the five or so available slots on the varsity team. Les will soon begin the grueling selection process, which involves rigorous practice round examination, demonstration of superlative research skills, and spot pen-flipping drills. Next year's varsity team will then embark on a rapid spree of preparation for the 1997-1998 policy debate topic: renewable energy. It promises to be a successful season for Lexington, armed with experienced seniors, stellar juniors, and a few prodigious sophomores.

LHS Vocalists Perform V-Day, Wick Festival

by Dave Kong

The brunette's lust-filled voice crooned in anticipation as the melody began. Throbbing and uninhibited, we began our song, with the bass' low voice resonating throughout the hazy love saturated room. A bright crimson slowly emerged from her cheeks as the melody climbed note after note. The primitive heat of masculinity charged the room as her palms grew sweaty. Yes, Valentine's Day offered more than candy and carnations for a few lucky women. It offered embarrassment and a chance to fill this column with innuendo.

Despite their dapper appearance and nonchalant slickness, hard work was actually involved in the preparation for February 14. For months the twenty-four men and women lucky enough to sing on V-day practiced their songs and choreography to well-tuned perfection. The singers all shared a common goal: the utter embarrassment of the recipient of their serenades.

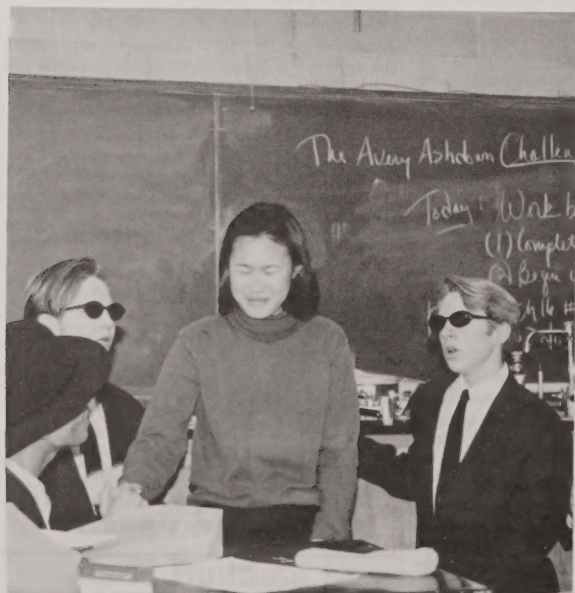
Exotic dancer and travelling wilderberry Andrew Garland commented, "the best part was when we got to fondle—I mean shake the girl's hand." Yes, there were many hands shaken that day, but the handshaking was secondary to the nifty sounding tunes. Songs ranged from classics like the Everly Brothers' "Dream," to the raunchy motown sounds of the Temptations on "Ain't Too

Proud to Beg" (performed by the soulful Jack Hamilton).

The quality singing of LHS vocalists was further exposed at the Wick Choral Festival, which was held Sunday, February 9, in Southborough. LHS a capella groups Euphoria, Mixed Nuts, Pitchpipes, and Sixth Edition brought down the proverbial house with their high-energy arrangements.

Mixed Nuts shocked the conservative crowd as senior Sarah Schlein led the Nuts through a raunchy rendition of Madonna's "Like A Prayer," while Euphoria's sexy divas enticed the audience with their upbeat version of Whitney Houston's "How Will I Know." Sixth Edition mellowed the crowd with a smooth "Mr. PC."

The Pitchpipes, the final a capella group of the concert, took the stage angry and frustrated. Senior Jack Hamilton provided the prevailing Pitchpipe perspective: "We were angry and frustrated. Half of the people had left, so we wanted to make them feel sorry they had gone." Consequently, the Pitchpipes opened with a raucous "Mortal Kombat." The choreography entailed beatdowns and backflips, percussion solos and freestyling. The Pipes finished with their signature song "Cloud Nine." Despite the snubbing by the audience, the LHS a capella groups put on a great show.



Pitchpipes members Dave Kong, Andrew Garland, and Jack Hamilton serenade junior Alice Lin.

-photo by Dan Myung

Injuries Hamper Girls' Basketball

by Becky Ticotsky

In early February, Coach Laura Lasa would have bet \$100 that her LHS girls' basketball team could win at least two of its five remaining games to qualify for the MIAA tournament. Luckily, Lasa refrained from putting in a call to Vegas. Her team lost all five of those games.

Without the multitude of injuries that plagued the Minutemaid's this season, their record (8-11 overall, 7-11 in the Middlesex League) might have dramatically improved. The starting lineup was intact for only six of the 19 games.

"Had we stayed healthy, I think it would have been very different," said Lasa. "To the kids' credit, they continually overcame major injuries. We did what we could do, given the odds."

Lexington had problems staying consistent, as its lineup changed based on injuries. The loss of sophomore guard Shanel Mercer for a considerable amount of time and Rebecca Ginns' absence in all but the first couple of games were particularly detrimental to the Minutemaid's efforts.

Another problem for Lexington was the lack of balanced scoring. A high percentage of the team's points came from their co-captains, senior guard Jackie Yerardi and junior forward Andrea Pawliczek, who also was the league's leading scorer.

"We weren't good enough to just have one or two people score," said Lasa. "We needed four or five people to chip in with 10 points apiece, and that just wasn't happening."

The Minutemaid's kept games close with an outstanding defense. However, games were lost due to poor shooting.

"We played really good defense down the stretch," Lasa said. "What hurt us was our offense. Our offense was out of sync. We weren't moving the ball well and we continually went through stretches missing not difficult shots."

Despite their disappointing record, the players kept positive attitudes, according to Lasa. "There wasn't a game they quit in. They never got down. It's a great group of kids."

Although three players, Yerardi and forwards Lindsay Bonner and Carolyn Wengler, will graduate this year, the outlook for next season is favorable. Pawliczek, who represented Lexington at the league all-star game with Yerardi, will be back to torment the Middlesex League along with fellow junior forward Kara McManus. Guards Mercer and Miriam Godfrey will have the unenviable task of taking over Yerardi's spot.

"I don't think either one of them singly can fill [Yerardi's] spot, but together, the two of them can," commented Lasa.

Wrestling Finishes Season with a Win

by Qin Chao

The LHS wrestling team finished the season with a resounding victory over Waltham, boosting their record to 16-7, one game better than Coach Kevin Russo had hoped for prior to the season.

"I felt really good about the team this year," said Russo. "We exceeded our expectations, and I feel that there is a bright future for the Lexington wrestling program."

The future includes juniors Alex

"We exceeded our expectations, and I feel that there is a bright future for the Lexington wrestling program."

-Coach Kevin Russo

Samuels and Riccardo Rullo, who were finalists at Sectionals. Samuels advanced in the 125 lbs. category, while Rullo was a surprise at 130 lbs. Along with fellow junior Joe McCann at 152 lbs. and seniors Billy Wright (112 lbs.) and Andrew DuBeau (160 lbs.), they represented Lexington at States. The mix of seasoned veterans and young talent paid off for the Minutemen.

"We started out shaky," said DuBeau, "But in the face of adversity, the younger guys came out strong and pulled the team

together."

Assistant coach Carl Cincotta echoed the same feeling. "The underclassmen stepped up," he said. "They worked hard in the off-season and have been the surprise [this year]."

After losing some State finalists from last year's team, the Minutemen were slated to rebuild this year. However, strong dedication by players and coaches, as well as an embracement of the underclassmen by the seniors, hastened the process. The coaches spent time with each and every wrestler, teaching and trying to provide an enjoyable experience for everyone. Young players like transfer Scott Cokely and Joe McCann did a terrific job trying to fill the positions left over from last year. The Minutemen also had to battle many injuries, including one that left co-captain Ronnie D'Abbraccio out for awhile.

"We had some obstacles this year, but we've done a good job pulling it together and working as a team to defeat our opponents," said senior Blaine McGivern.

With a bunch of experienced wrestlers next year, the Minutemen look poised to continue the dominance characteristic of so many Lexington teams. Russo thinks that 21 wins is not unrealistic, nor is the goal of being one of the top five teams in Massachusetts.



Captain Jackie Yerardi eludes her opponent, but it isn't enough to stop the 'Maid's five-game losing streak.

-photo from Musket file

Puck Falls Just Short of Goal for LHS Hockey Team

by David Ly

After a terrific turnaround to their season, a 6-1 loss to Burlington caused the LHS hockey team to fall one point short of making the state tournament. Lexington needed a tie to extend their season, but the Minutemen couldn't keep up with Burlington's bruising lines.

"We played unbelievably in the first period, but we couldn't score," said first year coach David Fimiani. "We outskated and outplayed them, but we just got tired [after that]."

It has been an up and down season for the Minutemen. They came out slow from the gate but turned their season around, including posting up a four game winning streak and winning 5-2 in their last 7 games. It all started with an 11-1 thrashing of Watertown and ended with a 4-0 knockout of league power Woburn in their second to last game. The win ended Woburn's hope of a tournament berth. It was also the first victory over the Tanners in 15 years, and combined with a tie

earlier in the season, it was the first time the Minutemen have swept Woburn in 25 years.

"[Woburn] was a big win for Lexington," said Fimiani. "We played better in the second half of the season because the team gelled, and everyone from every grade level encompassed each

"[M]y only regret is not being able to take these guys to the tournament. But this is the best team I've ever coached in my eight years."

-First-year coach David Fimiani

other as teammates. We played teams that we saw before, and the reality of making the states really drove us."

Lexington needed 9 points in the last few weeks of the season to make the states but came up with only 8. The Minutemen finished the season four games better than last year's squad at 8-9-3, includ-

ing an 8-7-3 record in the tough Middlesex League. However, it was only bittersweet for coach Fimiani.

"I expected a lot coming here, and my only regret is not being able to take these guys to the tournament," said Fimiani. "But this is the best team I've ever coached in my eight years. They responded to everything I asked of them. I've never been more proud, especially of Brian Delaney."

Senior captain Brian Delaney had a phenomenal year, posting 53 points, by far the team leader. He was named a league all-star and was the runner-up for league MVP. Delaney also reached a personal milestone during this season, scoring his 100th career point.

Many key players that Fimiani thinks will improve will return to next year's squad. The entire defense will stay intact, including goaltender Alex Olson, who had a terrific year. Also returning will be David Oberto, Jon Erickson, A.J. Floro and Jeff Lopresti, all significant contributors to this year's squad.



The Minutemen face the daunting stares of their opponents and the challenge of recovering from a slow start.

-photo courtesy of Burlington Studios



Grace Licorish falls just short of passing the Reading runner.

-photo by David Liu

Reading Stops LHS Track Teams Before Finish Line

by Aaron Adler and Steve Hart

The boys' and the girls' indoor track teams finished the dual meet season with strong victories over Burlington. The girls finished with an 8-1 record, losing only to Reading. The boys fared almost as well, finishing with a 7-2 record, losing to Reading and Wakefield. Both teams, however, finished in second place behind nemesis Reading at the Middlesex League Challenge, held at Lexington. The boys lost by only one point.

The Minutemen triumphed over Burlington with a score of 54-32. Once again, the middle distance team led the way to victory.

Lexington showed its might in the 1000 meter run, taking the top six spots. Senior Tim Calvin, who was recovering from a nasty cold, still managed to take first with a time of 2:47, followed by junior Steve Kerr (2:48), and sophomore Jay Kasparian (2:51). In the 600, the triumvirate of Ethan Fried (1:28), Eric Walker (1:28), and Josh Muller, who set a league record with a 1:26, took their customary sweep in the event. Seniors Todd Rosenfield and Ken Uzogara captured the top two spots in the 300-meter race. Other first places were earned in the high jump by Calvin, who set a personal record at 6 feet, the two-mile by senior Aaron Adler, and in the 50-meter dash by Eric Wang.

At the league meet, Calvin and Uzogara had second and third place finishes respectively in the high jump. Rosenfield scored second in the 300, Wang earned third in the dash, and Adler scored third in the mile. Muller, Fried, and Walker swept the 600 again. The 4x400 team won first place. However, even with all these performances, Lexington still fell to rival Reading. The Minutemen finished only one point behind Reading, who won with 83.

The girls' team crushed Burlington 63-32 and came in second at the league meet despite many obstacles in their way. At the league meet, Hillary Donnellan and Kathy Yang scored in the top six in the shot put, and

Sarah Day received a sixth place in the two mile. Carolyn Shank made it to the finals in the hurdles and finished third. In the dash, Grace Licorish placed in the top three, while teammate Ellen Humphrey scored second in the mile. There were strong performances by Chi-An Wang, Maria Stavropoulos, and Eleanor Finnegan in the 1000 meter and by Kate Waller and Leslie King in the 600. In the relays, the 4x400 team finished second. Unfortunately, the girls 4x800 team missed their race, and thusly were not able to receive the points that they probably would have gotten if they had ran.

Both Lexington squads will definitely be in competition for the Middlesex League title next year.

Boys' Basketball Falls Just Short of Post-Season Play

by Alex Sherman

The Lexington boys' varsity basketball team fell to 7-11 on a not so sweet Valentine's Day. The squad lost to Burlington (62-40), eliminating their hopes of playing in the Division 1 EMass tournament. Lexington could not hold off the 10-9 Burlington, who had playoff dreams of their own. The Minutemen will finish their season with tough bouts against Wakefield, #2 in eastern Mass., and Arlington.

At one time, Lexington was 6-7 with a bright future. The team had just defeated Burlington the first time around without its star player and league all-star, Taj Washington. The Minutemen were also victorious over a balanced Reading squad. However, the team dropped its next three to Stoneham, Belmont, and Melrose and could not bounce back.

In the three games against Stoneham, Belmont, and Melrose, Lexington hung tough throughout, but could not come away with a win. Against Stoneham and Belmont, the Minutemen held second half leads, only to relinquish

them when the final horn sounded. Against Melrose, Lexington started off ice cold and trailed by 16 early in the second half. However, the Blue and Gold made a stirring comeback to get within two with under 2:00 to play. Unfortunately, the inability to convert free throws hampered them and the Minutemen lost 56-49.

"I've had less effort from teams that have won state championships! We play so hard, and to lose the game by missing free throws down the stretch is hard to take."

-Coach Bob Farias

"I feel bad for these guys out there who are busting a gut. I've had less effort from teams that have won state championships!" said coach Bob Farias. "We play so hard, and to lose the game by missing free throws down the stretch is tough to take."

The Minutemen got back on track with a win against Woburn,

with a final score of 87-68. Washington led the way with 33 points and Mike Ifill and Nate Jaffee pitched in 14 apiece. Yet, Lexington hit its season low on Valentine's Day when Burlington, a team with a mediocre record, knocked them out of play-off contention.

"Burlington is a good team," said Farias. "They could surprise someone."

Lexington could not generate any offense in the game while the Red Devils had their way. At half-time, the score was 30-11. The second half was much of the same, with the only bright spot being the play of freshman guard Brendon Sullivan, who nailed two three-pointers in the waning minutes of the game.

The season has not been all disappointment. In the boys all-star game, Lexington had two participants, junior forward Taj Washington and senior point guard Nate Jaffee. For Jaffee, his all-star selection was a defining moment. In the beginning of the year, the captain hoped to be recognized by peers and other coaches as a "prime-time player." He got his wish.



Mike Ifill looks for an opportunity to shoot the ball past Woburn's defense. The Minutemen win the game with a final score of 87-68.

-photo from Musket file

Varsity Scoreboard

as of February 21, 1997

Track	
Boys'	7-2
Girls'	8-1
Boys' Swim	6-0
Wrestling	16-7
Boys' Hockey	8-9-3
Basketball	
Boys'	7-11
Girls'	8-11

Boys' Swim Ends 3rd Place in League

by Dave Ly

The Lexington boys' swim team wrapped up a terrific season with a third place finish in the Middlesex League meet at Bentley College, missing first place by only 11 points. Belmont scored 234 points to Lexington's 223.

"The season was extremely successful, even though we didn't win the league meet," said coach John

"[W]inning the dual meet title was very important, and no one is going to take that title away from us."

-Quad-captain
Jake Kissel

Henriques. "We competed against some tough teams and were solid throughout."

After beating Melrose 96-70 for a 5-0 record and capturing the Middlesex League dual meet crown, the Minutemen were primed to sweep the league meet. However, the absences of key swimmers, including senior Dan Paulsen, and a phenomenal meet by Belmont left Lexington at the bottom of a tightly packed group of three teams that were separated by only 11 points.

"We had a good shot to win

both [the league meet and dual meet titles]," said senior Jake Kissel, who was third in the 100 backstroke and fourth in the 200 individual medley. "But winning the dual meet title was very important, and no one is going to take that title away from us."

Kissel was one of the many successes of the Minutemen's exciting season. Senior Jesse Herman finished first and second in the 50 free at the league meet and Sectionals, respectively. Although Lexington had no superstars, but what they did have was a group of very solid performers.

A testament to their depth and talent was having not one, two, or three captains. Instead, they had four. Steve Davis, Herman, Kissel, and Bob MacLean have been the squad's leaders since their sophomore years, and their work and dedication has paid off this season. They had such good seasons that all were named league all-stars.

"They [the captains] have set a tone with their production and motivation at every meet," said Henriques. "It's a legacy that will definitely help future teams."

Next season looks promising for the Minutemen. Lexington had its largest team in 20 years. Although 17 seniors will graduate, underclassmen including Jon Amar, Jay Corr, Ken Longo, Milan Raj, and Alex Talarico are ready to step up.